

especially in areas such as tourism, transportation and climate change and establishing common areas of research and outreach that are particularly aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens in the Caribbean and New York in such areas that connect education to health, trade, culture and promote greater public awareness especially to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, prevention of NCDs advancing cultural industries and thereby capitalizing on some of the assets of the Caribbean Diaspora.

Prime Minister also suggested the involvement of the private sector both in the CARICOM Community and New York to sponsor goodwill tours to enhance the understanding of groups and stakeholders that share common cultural and educational objectives; placing greater emphasis on promoting courses on Caribbean Studies and the American connections in the region's Tertiary Learning Institutions (TLIs) and establishing a Charles Rangel Professorship to commemorate this momentous occasion in the annals of Caribbean-USA relations.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will foster greater ties between the two tertiary institutions in specific areas of importance to the Caribbean and the Diaspora in New York.

Professor Nigel Harris, UWI Vice Chancellor and Dr. Edison Jackson, President of the Medgar Evers College signed the MOU at the Education Symposium at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. The signing came at the end of the Opening Ceremony of the Symposium which was staged as part of the two-day New York Conference on the Caribbean which began 19 June. The Symposium was held under the theme "Strengthening Collaborative Ties between New York and CARICOM Higher Education Institutions."

The Conference is geared at boosting existing ties with the United States in general and New York in particular, in the areas of education, trade and investment.

High level meetings were held between Heads of Government and key officials included Congressman Hon. Charles Rangel, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, the Hon. David Paterson, New York Governor; Mr. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York; Mr. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President, and top executives of Wall Street. In a brief statement Professor Harris extended gratitude to Dr. Jackson for making the symposium possible and indicated that though UWI and Medgar Evers had signed other similar documents, this one was special since it was aimed at building a relationship in areas of relevance to the Caribbean and to the Caribbean Diaspora in New York such as youth development and immigration. He expressed the hope that the MOU would usher in a partnership that would serve as a model for other relationships. The panelists at the two-hour long Symposium were Professor Nigel Harris, Professor Frances Negron Muntaner of Columbia University, Dr. Garrie Moore, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, CCNY, Ms. Myrna Bernard, Director, Human Development, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, and Dr. David Jones, President, Community Service Society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately Monday night, July 14, 2008, I

was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 1067, H. Res. 1080, and H. Con. Res. 297, and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 486 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1067, Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus*, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 487 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1080, Honoring the extraordinary service and exceptional sacrifice of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), known as the Screaming Eagles, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 488 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 297, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces, I would have voted "aye."

OHIO HOUSING CRISIS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the inclusion of neighborhood stabilization funds as part of the comprehensive housing package currently pending in Congress.

Last month, Chairwoman WATERS convened a field hearing in my congressional district on the housing foreclosure crisis in Ohio. During this hearing, we heard testimony from State and local government officials and housing advocates about the devastation that has been caused by subprime mortgage lending practices.

The hearing panelists shared information on their aggressive foreclosure prevention efforts which include: Governor Strickland's establishment of a Compact with major servicers to help Ohioans stay in their homes; State laws and city resolutions to address issues surrounding vacant and foreclosed properties; litigation initiated by the City of Cleveland against lenders for their violations of Ohio's public nuisance statute; and housing counseling services provided by full-service public interest organizations.

Despite all of these efforts within the State of Ohio, a common theme we heard throughout the field hearing was the dire need for an aggressive Federal response to the housing crisis. Specifically, panelists repeatedly emphasized the need for community stabilization funding.

Neighborhood stabilization funds will allow States and local governments to facilitate the purchase, rehabilitation, or demolition of vacant and foreclosed properties. During last month's field hearing, State and local government officials noted their severe lack of resources as well as the need for Federal funds to halt the cycle of disinvestment. Housing stakeholders in Ohio and across the country stand ready to utilize these emergency stabilization funds to reverse the continued downward cycle of property abandonment and declining property values.

As negotiations continue this week on this important housing legislation, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the inclusion of neighborhood stabilization funds in the final legislative package.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, I missed rollcall votes numbered 486, a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571); 487, a resolution honoring the extraordinary service and exceptional sacrifice of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), known as the Screaming Eagles; and 488, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes numbered 486, 487, and 488.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLARK TOWNSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Clark Township Baptist Church was founded in June 1833 and is celebrating its 175th anniversary in Warsaw, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of Clark Township Baptist Church continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, the 175th anniversary of Clark Township Baptist Church has drawn new and old congregation members to Warsaw, Ohio to celebrate the life of their church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Clark Township Baptist Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

HONORING THE MARYLAND STATE MATHCOUNTS TEAM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the Maryland Mathcounts team at the National Mathcounts Competition held in Denver on May 9, 2008. Represented by Jason Hyun, Ben Lowenstein, and Sam Zbarsky of Takoma Park Middle School, and Linus Hamilton of Hyattsville Middle School, the participants performed exceptionally well in the country's largest middle school math competition, earning a third place overall group finish. Two members of this young team also performed well individually, finishing in the top of the quarterfinal round.

Sarah Manchester, who teaches math at Takoma Park Middle School and coached the Maryland team in this impressive performance,